ATLAS

GUNSMOKE WESTERN

KID COLT AND WYATT EARP IN

AUG.

GUNSMOKE WESTERN

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NO. 36 10¢

ALL NEW TALES!

"WHEN DRAGO CAME TO TOWN!"

KID COLT STARS IN:

"CLEAN-UP IN BUCKHORN!"

Come on, Buddy, Quit being A BAG-of-BONES Weakling like I was

BEFORE

IN 10 MINUTES OF FUN A DAY YOU Can do *ALL I did!*

I gained **25** Terrific LBS. of **HANDSOME POWER-PACKED MUSCLES** all over!

I improved my **HE-MAN LOOKS 1000%**

I won **NEW STRENGTH** for money-making work! for WINNING at all SPORTS!

I won **NEW POPULARITY** Won NEW FRIENDS, BOYS & GIRLS NEW CHANCES for BUSINESS SUCCESS

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Millions Sold for $1

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HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY CHEST
By GEORGE F. JOWETT
1
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2
HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY ARM
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3
HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY BACK
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5
HOW TO MOLD MIGHTY LEGS
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Below is Cleveland **BEFORE**
He Mailed Coupon
90 lb. Skeleton
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KID COLT

OUTLAW in "CLEAN-UP IN BUCKHORN!"

DESTINY HAD THROWN THEM TOGETHER, KID COLT AND THE COLD-EYED STRANGER...TWO MEN WITH THE AIR OF BORN GUNFIGHTERS ABOUT THEM! SOMEHOW THEIR FATES WERE INTERTWINED AS THE DODGE CITY FREIGHT RUMBLED ACROSS THE WILD PLANES!

J531 JACK KELLER

SUDDENLY, THE TRAIN LURCHED VIOLENTLY FROM THEIR FEET AS THE TRAIN GROUND TO A SUDDEN STOP...

HUH? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

AND IN THE NEXT INSTANT...

STAY PUT AN' KEEP YOUR HANDS OUT OF TROUBLE! WE'RE AFTER HOSSES, SO DON'T RISK YOUR HIDE GOIN' FOR HARDWARE!

TAKE ALL THE CAVALLOS YOU WANT, BUT YOU'D BETTER LEAVE MINE HERE!

WE NEED 'EM *ALL*, AN' WE'RE *TAKIN'* 'EM ALL!

YOU'RE TAKIN' ALL BUT *TWO*...OR *NONE*!

TWO PAIRS OF COLTS BEGAN BARKING ORDERS AS THE KID AND THE QUIET STRANGER ASSERTED THEIR FURY...

WE'RE OUTNUMBERED, AMIGO, BUT IT'S GOING TO BE A SCRAP!

THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE MY ODDS!

LAY 'EM LOW! WE GOT NO TIME TO WASTE!

SUDDEN BLACKNESS ENGULFED THE TWO FIGHTERS!

OKAY! NOW GET THEM HOSSES OUT!

LATER, AS CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNED...

IT WAS A GOOD SCRAP WHILE IT LASTED!

IT'S NOT OVER YET! I AIM TO FIND MY HORSE AND EVEN UP THE SCORE! I WONDER HOW THEY BUSHWHACKED THIS TRAIN?

WHAT HAPPENED?

WE WERE HAULING A PASSEL OF CONVICTS TO DODGE CITY, WHEN THEY JUMPED THEIR GUARDS AND DAYLIGHTED US!

I DIDN'T KNOW THIS TRAIN WAS LOADED WITH JAIL-BIRDS!

IT WAS KEPT QUIET SO NONE OF THEIR FRIENDS WOULD PULL ANYTHING! YOU BOYS BETTER LOOK IN ON THE SECOND CAR TO THE REAR!

IT NEEDED BUT ONE LOOK TO READ THE STARK DRAMA THAT HAD BEEN ENACTED HERE...

THEY JUMPED THE GUARDS AND CAT-FOOTED ACROSS THE TOP OF THE TRAIN TO REACH THE ENGINE!

I'M GOING AFTER THEM! I AIM TO GET MY HORSE BACK!

AT DAWN, THE NEXT DAY, TWO GRIM MEN SURVEYED THE LAWLESS TOWN OF BUCKHORN...

THERE'S BUCK-HORN, THE WORST CESS-POOL IN THE WEST! OUR HORSES ARE THERE!

AND SO ARE THE SIDEWINDERS WHO STOLE 'EM! WE'LL I'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

MEANWHILE, IN DODGE CITY, AN OUTRAGED CITIZENRY GREETED THE PLUNDERED FREIGHT...

THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE THOSE BUZZARDS COULD HAVE HOLED UP, AND THAT'S BUCKHORN! MY MEN ARE HEADING THERE!

START RIDING, MARSHAL! I'LL BACK YOU UP WITH A TROOP OF MY OWN!

AS DUSK SETTLED OVER BUCKHORN...

THIS TOWN IS RUN BY ONE GANG! IT'S GOING TO BE TOUGH FLUSHING THEM INTO THE OPEN!

WHEN YOU HUNT WOLVES YOU DON'T FLUSH 'EM! YOU BAIT THEM!

THUS IT WAS THAT HAMMER STYLES FOUND HIMSELF LOOKING INTO THE GAPING MUZZLES OF FOUR COLTS...

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WEASELS WANT?

WE WANT TWO HORSES YOUR DOGLEGS STOLE FROM US, BUT WE'LL GET TO THAT LATER! RIGHT NOW WE WANT ***YOU!***

WHISTLE UP A FEW OF YOUR FLUNKIES, STYLES! TELL THEM YOU WANT YOUR GANG DOWN AT THE CATTLE PENS NEAR THE DEPOT!

WE'LL BE RIGHT HANDY TO SEE YOU DON'T MAKE ANY SLIPS!

WHAT'S UP, BOSS?

ROUND UP THE BOYS AN' TELL THEM TO MEET ME AT THE CATTLE PENS NEAR THE DEPOT IN HALF AN HOUR!

IF YOU'RE AFTER TWO CAYUSES, I CAN GET THEM BACK FOR YOU!

NO DEALS, STYLES! WE WANT TO SQUARE THINGS WITH THE BUZZARDS WHO TOOK OUR HORSES! LET'S GO!

HALF AN HOUR LATER, AT THE CATTLE PENS...

LINE UP AN' RUN YOUR HORSES THROUGH THE PENS! WE'RE GOIN' TO BRAND THEM ALL WITH ONE MARK, SO WE'LL KNOW THEY'RE OURS!

HERD 'EM IN, BOYS! STACY! JENKINS! RUN 'EM THROUGH THE FORCING PEN!

YIP-YAHOO! YIEEEEEE!

MOMENTS LATER, THE MAIN GATE SLAMMED SHUT, AND...

FILL YOUR HANDS, YOU WEASELS! THE BRANDING IS GOIN' TO BE DONE WITH SIX-GUN LEAD!

SLAP LEATHER AN' LET'S HEAR THOSE HAMMERS CLICK!

SIX-GUNS ROARED LIKE CLAPS OF THUNDER!

HEAD FOR THE RUNWAYS AND SCATTER!

JUST WHAT WE *WANT* THEM TO DO!

RUN, YOU PACK OF BUZZARDS! THIS IS THE END OF THE TRAIL!

YOU'VE RUSTLED YOUR LAST HORSE AND BUSHWHACKED YOUR LAST TRAIN! **MOVE!**

MEANWHILE, THE LAW THUNDERED INTO BUCKHORN...

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT! BUCKHORN WAS AN ARMED CAMP! IT BOASTED IT COULD NEVER BE TAKEN BY THE LAW!

GLORY BE! LOOK AT THOSE TWO HOMBRES! THEY'VE GOT EVERY SIDEWINDER IN TOWN HOG-TIED!

IT'S KID COLT AND MATT PIERCE!

MATT PIERCE! I HEARD THEY WERE SENDING YOU OUT TO BRING LAW TO BUCKHORN! I THOUGHT YOU TURNED THE JOB DOWN!

I WOULD HAVE, IF IT WEREN'T FOR MY PARDNER HERE! I'M OFFERIN' KID COLT A JOB AS MY CHIEF DEPUTY!

HOW ABOUT IT, KID?

I CAME TO BUCKHORN FOR JUST ONE REASON... TO GET MY HORSE! THANKS. BUT I'D BETTER BE RIDING!

THE END

FEUD TRAIL

"COURT'S in meeting! Court'll come to order!"

The dry voice of the feed store owner, Clem Hatch could be heard all the way back in the main room of the town hall of Rigby, that doubled as the circuit courtroom once every two months.

Once again the feud between the Carrs and the Bakers had broken out. The feud was old history in the county, having begun thirty years back over the possession of about forty acres of land lying between the Carr and Baker spreads. In recent years, however, it had died down, leaving only smoldering embers of a once-blazing fire. It also left a cordial dislike between the two families. Not once did a Carr ever speak to a Baker except to threaten to take him to court for trespassing. Nor did a Baker speak to a Carr except in the same way. Unless Jim Carr and Bill Baker be counted out. They were both twenty years old and were out of the feud, for schooldays together had taught them to be friends. It had also taught them to be friends in secret.

Judge Hadell leaned over the desk that served as judicial bench and fixed his eye upon the two angry men seated before him.

"You, Dash Carr, charge Cade Baker with trespassing on a piece of land belonging to you." He read off a description of the piece of land. Then he glanced at Baker. "You, Cade Baker, charge Dash Carr with trespassing on land of yours." Again the land description was the same. "You both continue charges?"

"I do, Your Honor!" Leaped from both pairs of lips simultaneously.

"All right," the judge said, riffling through other papers. He picked one out and read through it. "According to this, my predecessor in office, Judge Hicks, had a survey of your land deeds made ten years ago. This established the fact that the land boundaries were substantially as described in both deeds . . ."

"His grandfather hornswoggled that land from mine!" Hotly declared Dash Carr.

"That's not so!" Cade Baker insisted. "It was just the other way around!"

"That's neither here nor there," Judge Hadell said, dryly. "Judge Hicks set the boundaries by law. The boundaries are settled, unless you want to take the matter to the State Supreme Court."

"Couldn't afford it," Dash Carr said.

"Neither could I," Cade Baker said.

"That bein' the case, and in view of the fact that the case is legally settled, and in further view of the fact that according to both statements each man had walked on that disputed land, you're both guilty of trespassing on each other, I hereby fine *each* of you ten dollars!" He held up his hand as both ranchers started to their feet in protest. "Also, I declare that the next time either of you is detected trespassing, I'll fine both of you fifty dollars apiece next session! Next case!" And Judge Hadell angrily banged his gavel down on the desk.

From a spot near the schoolhouse, Jim Carr and Bill Baker once more took up their spades. Both had volunteered to do some repair work on the school foundations. But both had stood at the back of the courtroom listening to their respective fathers being fined . . . and then had departed back to their task. They watched Dash Carr ride down Main Street out toward his ranch. Fifty feet behind came Cade Baker. Both men seemed far from subdued.

"They'll take it hard," Bill said to Jim.

"But they'll do nothing," Jim said. "They know they'd land in the calaboose. They realize the case is settled. But the feud isn't. No law can touch the feelings inside a man. That feud'll go on."

Bill stared dejectedly at the two fathers.

"You know what that means, then," he said. "Sooner or later, one or both of 'em is bound to get het up and hot in the collar, and come down and build a spite fence. Then the other'll tear it down and . . ."

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TWO-GUN SHOWDOWN

WELL, WELL, LOOK AT THE DANDY DUDE... ALL DOLLED UP!
HE AIN'T EVEN WEARIN' A GUN!
HERE YUH ARE, MISTER... THIS IS GUN BUTT, AND YOU'RE WELCOME TO IT!
by Stan Lee

I'M DANIEL NORTH, THE NEW SCHOOL TEACHER! CAN YOU DIRECT ME TO THE HOTEL?

DON'T THAT TAKE THE BOB-TAILED CAKE?

A MAN SCHOOL TEACHER!

I RECKON YUH BETTER TAKE THE NEXT STAGE OUTA TOWN, MISTER NORTH... OR IS IT MISS NORTH?? HAW! HAW!

ATTA BOY... *YOU* TELL 'IM, GROWLER!

YOU MEN DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND! I CAME HERE TO TEACH SCHOOL, AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I INTEND TO DO! NOW STEP ASIDE, PLEASE!

SUPPOSE YOU *MAKE* ME STEP ASIDE!

VERY WELL, IF YOU THINK IT'S NECESSARY!

I'M SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YUH, MISTER NORTH... BUT WE DON'T FIGHT WITH OUR FISTS OUT HERE... WE FIGHT THIS WAY!

MAN, DID YUH SEE THAT DRAW? AIN'T NO FASTER GUN-MAN THAN GROWLER IN THE STATE!

I'M AFRAID YOU HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF ME! I'M NOT ***WEARING*** ANY GUNS!

WE'LL FIX THAT! GIVE 'IM A GUN BELT, BOYS!

GO AHEAD... PUT IT ON, IF YUH KNOW HOW!

GROWLER, YUH CAN'T DO IT TO THIS DUDE... IT'LL BE ***MURDER!*** BEIN' A MAN TEACHER AIN'T REASON ENUFF TO KILL A MAN, GROWLER!

I AIN'T FORCIN' HIM TO DRAW... HE CAN ALWAYS ADMIT HE'S A LOW-DOWN, ORNERY, YELLA COWARD AND BACK OUT!

I'M NOT BACKING OUT!

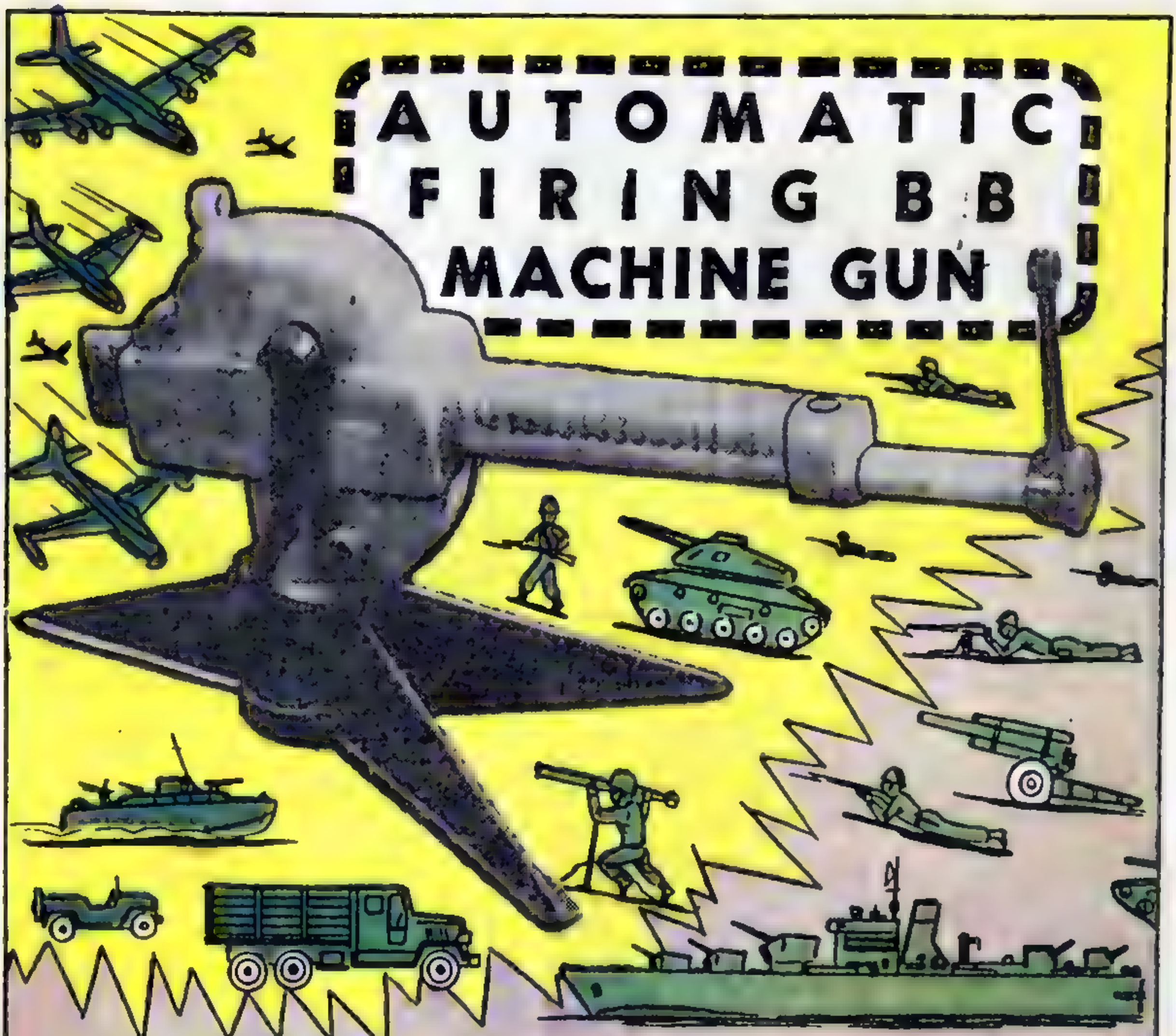
YOU SEE, MISTER GROWLER ...I BELIEVE THAT A MAN WITH BRAINS CAN DEFEAT A BULLYING, LOUD-MOUTHED, EMPTY-HEADED TROUBLE-MAKER LIKE YOU ANY DAY... EVEN AT YOUR OWN GAME!

WHAT DID YOU CALL ME?!!!

I'LL REPEAT IT IF YOU'D LIKE!

NEVER MIND... JUST GIT READY TO MAKE YOUR PLAY!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...



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WHY DON'T YUH FORGET IT, GROWLER! THE POOR DUDE DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S GETTIN' INTO!

SHUT UP AND GIVE ME ROOM!

NOW, HOMBRE... DRAW!

I'LL BE GLAD TO!

AS GROWLER WENT FOR HIS GUNS WITH THE SPEED OF A TRAINED LEAD SLINGER, DANIEL NORTH ***ALSO*** MOVED QUICKLY... BUT HE DIDN'T DRAW HIS GUN! INSTEAD HE TURNED HIS POCKET WATCH SO THAT THE SUN'S RAYS CAUGHT IT AND...

MY EYES... I CAN'T SEE!

WHAT A PITY!

AS GROWLER STRUGGLED TO FIND HIS TARGET, WITH THE RELENTLESS BEAM OF LIGHT HITTING HIS EYES... DANIEL NORTH CALMLY AND SLOWLY DREW HIS GUN AND TOOK CAREFUL AIM...

HOLD STILL, MISTER GROWLER... IT'LL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE...

I'M NOT TERRIBLY FAST ON THE DRAW, GROWLER, BUT IT'S LUCKY FOR YOU THAT I'M A GOOD SHOT!

SAY, GROWLER... WHERE DO YUH GO TO STUDY TO BE A TEACHER?

THE END

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BLACK RIDER

MYSTERY MAN OF THE WESTERN RANGE!

"TENSION IN LEADVILLE!"

IT'S MARIE LATHROP AND SHE'S RIDING AS IF SHE HAD BAD NEWS!

I SURE HOPE IT AIN'T ABOUT THE STAGE BEIN' LATE!

SALOON

MERCH
TRADING P

H-75

OH, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE, BLACK RIDER! THE STAGE HAS BEEN AMBUSHED! I SAW THEM DO IT!

WHERE DID IT HAPPEN, MISS LATHROP?

IT HAPPENED NEAR DRY CREEK! THREE MASKED MEN JUMPED THE STAGE AT THE CROSS-ROADS! THEY WERE SHOOTING WHEN I LEFT!

ROUND UP SOME MEN, SANFORD! I'M HEADING FOR DRY CREEK!

MEANWHILE AT DRY CREEK...

I ALREADY TOLD YOU WE AIN'T CARRYIN' NO VALUABLES! I GOT A WOUNDED MAN HERE! LET ME TAKE HIM INTO TOWN!

MIGHTY SLIM PICKIN'S ON THESE RATTLETRAPS LATELY! CLIMB ABOARD AN' GET GOIN'!

SKINNER MUST HAVE BEEN DEAD WRONG! THAT STAGE WASN'T CARRYIN' A HOOT WORTH OF CARGO!

SKINNER AIN'T WRONG OFTEN! WE BETTER GET BACK AN' TELL HIM!

LOOK! IT'S THE ***BLACK RIDER!*** I AIN'T HANKERIN' TO TANGLE WITH HIM! SPLIT UP AN' RIDE!

TIME'S A-WASTIN'! GIDDAP, PINTO!

THE BLACK RIDER CHOSE HIS QUARRY AND SPURRED HIS MIGHTY CHARGER INTO GREATER EFFORT...

ONE IS BETTER THAN NONE! RATTLE THOSE HOOFS, SATAN!

I'M AFTER HIS HORSE, SATAN! SIT DOWN HARD WHEN I YELL!

THE RAWHIDE RIATA HISSED THRU THE AIR AND THE WHITE STALLION THREW HIS WEIGHT AGAINST THE SHOCK!

BUCK HIM, SATAN!

ON YOUR FEET, YOU COYOTE! WHOSE RUSTLING BRAND DO YOU SPEAK FOR?

DON'T SHOOT! IT WASN'T ME WHO SHOT THAT PASSENGER!

WHISTLE UP YOUR HORSE! YOU'LL HAVE A DATE WITH A JURY BEFORE SUNDOWN!

LATER, IN LEADVILLE...

W'!AT HAPPENED TO THE WOUNDED PASSENGER, SHERIFF?

MISS LATHROP TOOK HIM TO DOC MASTERS! HE'S HIT BAD!

AWAY FROM PRYING EYES, THE BLACK RIDER HASTILY ASSUMED THE ROLE OF DOC MASTERS WHILE SATAN BECAME THE GENTLE, PLODDING ICHABOD...

WE'LL HAVE TO HURRY, SATAN... I MEAN, ICHABOD! I HOPE WE CAN HELP THE POOR FELLOW!

AND MINUTES LATER...

I'M SO GLAD YOU GOT HERE, DOC! YOU DON'T MIND IF I DID WHAT I COULD FOR HIM!

I COULDN'T HAVE DONE BETTER MYSELF, MARIE! BETTER GET SOME HOT WATER READY AND FRESH BANDAGES!

THERE... I'VE EXTRACTED THE SLUG! NASTY WOUND! DO YOU KNOW WHO HE IS, MARIE?

HE'S BEEN CONSCIOUS, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO TIRE HIM WITH QUESTIONS!

HE'LL NEED LOOKING AFTER! I'LL HITCH UP THE BUCKBOARD, MARIE, IF YOU THINK YOU COULD CARE FOR HIM AT THE RANCH!

I'LL BE GLAD TO, DOC!

THE FOLLOWING DAY, AS DOC MASTERS MADE HIS ROUNDS...

WELL, HOW'S THE PATIENT, JIM? DID YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT HIM?

HE'S GETTIN' MIGHTY TENDER CARE FROM, MARIE, DOC! YEP... I KNOW WHO HE IS! NAME'S JEFF HORNER, AND HE'S A DOCTOR LIKE YOURSELF!

A DOCTOR? WAS HE THINKING OF SETTING UP HERE IN LEADVILLE?

RECKON SO, DOC! IT AIN'T LIKELY HE'LL LEAVE WITH ALL THE COAXIN' MARIE HAS BEEN DOIN'! THEY KIND OF HIT IT OFF!

I HEAR YOU'RE THINKING OF SETTING UP PRACTICE IN LEADVILLE! THE TOWN IS GROWING! WE CAN USE ANOTHER DOCTOR!

I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT, SIR! OF COURSE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO DO A THING UNTIL MY EQUIPMENT ARRIVES! I HAD IT SHIPPED SEPARATELY!

I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ON YOUR FEET IN NO TIME WITH SUCH DEVOTED CARE!

MISS LATHROP HAS BEEN WONDERFUL! I'M VERY GRATEFUL!

DOC MASTERS FOUGHT TO REPRESS THE GROWING FEELING...

POOR DOC! IT'S KIND OF TAKEN THE WIND OUT OF HIS SAILS! A NEW SAWBONES IS BAD ENOUGH, BUT HAVIN' MARIE MAKIN' A FUSS OVER HIM MAKES IT WORSE!

THE NEWS WAS ALL OVER TOWN BY MORNING, AND FOR THE FIRST TIME DOC MASTERS SAW LEADVILLE THRU THOUGHTFUL EYES...

THERE'S MORE THAN ENOUGH PRACTICE TO GO AROUND! IT ISN'T THAT... IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS I'VE LOST MARIE! HE'S YOUNGER... BETTER LOOKING!

WE NEED THE BLACK RIDER... FAST! THOSE BANDITS NAILED ANOTHER STAGE! THIS TIME THEY'RE HOLDING DOCTOR HORNER'S EQUIPMENT FOR RANSOM!

WHAT? MEDICAL EQUIPMENT IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY IS WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD!

IT WAS THE SHERIFF WHO ARRANGED THE RENDEZVOUS AND THE BLACK RIDER WHO KEPT IT IN THE HILLS OVERLOOKING LEADVILLE...

WE FIGGER ALL THAT SHINY SAWBONES GEAR IS WUTH TEN THOUSAND! THAT'S OUR PRICE!

THE PRICE IS TOO HIGH! I'VE MADE MY BID! TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT!

WE'RE LEAVIN' IT... BUT WE DON'T AIM TO HAVE YOU ON OUR TRAIL, SO WE'LL BE LEAVIN' YOU HERE, TOO!

THAT'S THE FIRST SERIOUS MISTAKE YOU'RE MAKING!

HE WHIRLED LIKE A BLACK PANTHER, BOTH GUNS ROARING...

AND IT'S THE *LAST* MISTAKE YOU'RE MAKING!

YOU'RE DEAD WRONG, MISTER! WE'RE LEAVIN' YOU FOR BUZZARD BAIT!

HERE'S A NEW BRAND OF SMOKE... TRY IT!

THERE WAS A SATISFIED GRIN BEHIND THE BLACK RIDER'S MASK AS THE STAGE REACHED LEADVILLE AND A WAITING CROWD...

IT'S ALL HERE... EVERY BIT OF IT! THIS IS THE LATEST EQUIPMENT A DENTIST CAN BUY!

O-DENTIST?

IT'S WONDERFUL! NOW MY WIFE AND KIDS WILL BE HERE ON THE NEXT STAGE! I CAN HARDLY WAIT!

NEITHER CAN I!

THE END

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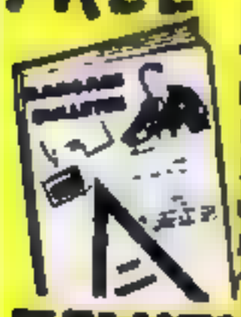

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WHEN DRAGO CAME TO TOWN!

SUFFERIN' SAGEBRUSH! THAT'S DRAGO HIMSELF... AND HE'S HEADIN' FER TOWN!

by Stan Lee
Al Williamson

DRAGO!!! THE VERY SOUND OF HIS NAME WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE STRONG MEN TREMBLE! DRAGO! THE MOST FEARED PROFESSIONAL GUNFIGHTER AND OWLHOOT IN THE ENTIRE DOREDO TERRITORY! DRAGO! THE MAN WITH A PRICE ON HIS HEAD BIG ENOUGH TO BUY A RANCH! NO WONDER THAT SLIM LAWSON DID A DOUBLE TAKE WHEN HE SAW THE FEARED OUTLAW HEADING FOR THE TOWN OF THUNDER MESA!

I GOTTA WARN THE SHERIFF! GOTTA REACH TOWN AHEAD OF DRAGO!

J914

SHERIFF! SHERIFF!

HOLD ON NOW, BOY! WHOAAA! WHAT'S ALL THE EXCITEMENT?

I SAW HIM... HE'S COMING TO TOWN... I HADDA WARN YUH...

AIN'T A MAN LIVIN' WORTH GETTIN' SO RILED UP ABOUT, BOY! **WHO** DID YUH SEE?

DRAGO! THAT'S WHO!

DRAGO!!!

SAM... ROUND UP A POSSE! TEX, GIT ALL THE DEPUTIES TOGETHER, AND SEE TO IT THAT EVERY MAN'S ARMED TO THE TEETH!

RIGHT, SHERIFF!

WHAT DO YUH THINK HE'S COMIN' HERE FOR?

I DUNNO... BUT HE MUST BE LOOKIN' FOR TROUBLE... AND WE GOTTA BE READY FOR 'IM!

HEAR THAT? DRAGO'S COMIN' TO TOWN!

GEE!

DIDJA SEE HOW EXCITED THE SHERIFF IS?

YEAH...AND IT'S GONNA TAKE A WHOLE POSSE TO GIT DRAGO!

AND I'LL BET THEY STILL WON'T GIT 'IM!

I'LL BET DRAGO IS THE GREATEST HOMBRE IN THE WHOLE WORLD!

I'D SHORE LIKE TO BE LIKE HIM WHEN I GIT OLDER!

BUT DRAGO'S AN *OUTLAW!* YUH MEAN YUH WANNA BE AN OUTLAW?

SHORE...WHY NOT? LOOK HOW FAMOUS HE IS... AND WHAT AN EXCITING LIFE HE LEADS!

HE'S COMING... GIT OFF THE STREET... DRAGO'S COMING!

NOW YUH'LL SEE SOMETHING!

I'LL BET DRAGO TREES THE WHOLE TOWN!

LOOK...THERE HE IS!

GEE... HE AIN'T AFEARED OF NOTHING!

I'LL BET HE WOULDN'T TRADE PLACES WITH ANYBODY!

SHERIFF!

SPEAK YORE PIECE, DRAGO... BUT DON'T MAKE NO SUDDEN MOVES... WE GOT 50 GUNS ON YUH!

I AIN'T INTENDIN' TO MAKE NO MOVES... I WANNA SURRENDER!

WHAT?

I CAN'T STAND BEING HUNTED ANY MORE! I MUSTA BEEN LOCO WHEN I BECAME AN OUTLAW! I AIN'T KNOWN A HAPPY OR PEACEFUL DAY IN FIVE YEARS! I WANNA REST NOW... A MAN CAN'T RUN FOREVER...

I SHOULDA DONE THIS A LONG TIME AGO!

WHO DIDJA SAY YUH'D RATHER BE THAN ANYBODY, TOMMY?

AW, SHUT UP... I WUZ ONLY FOOLIN'!

THE END

"And both of 'em will be fined fifty dollars," Jim said.

"If there was only some way to get rid of land, some way of ending the feud . . ."

"The day you can get rid of land entirely, it'll be able to fly," Jim observed.

They worked away at their task until past noon, then dropped their shovels, said good-bye to the other volunteers, mounted their cayuses and rode home for lunch. Both parents knew, of course, that their sons had been working with others at the school. Both parents were glad their sons had volunteered for such a task, but each took for granted the fact that so great was the dislike between both families that neither of the boys would speak to each other.

Slowly the boys rode out of town onto the trail leading to the road that led past both the Carr and Baker spreads. But the fact that their parents might still be on the road made them change their minds and cut cross-country toward the Chazos River and its several branches. The river was in full stage, and they had to swim their horses across.

Emerging at the other side, they rode down a gully that ended in a slight rise. Here they paused to part. Beyond the rise was the boundary between the two spreads. Any riders topping it could be visible from both ranch houses.

Suddenly, Jim gave a start.

"What's wrong?" Bill asked.

Jim said nothing for a moment, then, silently pointed to the gully and then to the rise, with a gesture.

Bill's eyes widened. Abruptly he gave a smothered laugh.

"Why sure," he said, "but ..."

"But nothing," Jim pursued. "We could do it easy. Tell you what, I'll met you out here tonight at midnight. I've been sleeping, lately, at the bunkhouse so's to get into the saddle early. They'll never miss me."

Bill nodded eagerly. Then both of them parted and rode down the rise until they were half a mile apart. Both of them topped it and hightailed it down the steep slope on the other side for home.

It was a little past midnight when two dark figures met at the dividing line that separated both spreads. Both carried lan-

terns.

"Think they can spot us from the house?" Jim asked Bill.

Bill shook his head negatively. "The rise is just high enough to hide the light."

They disappeared toward the rise.

It was seven o'clock when Dash Carr was awakened by excited sounds from his wife.

"Get up!" she cried. "Rud Marple wants you. Something's happened."

Mr. Carr dressed and got downstairs. The foreman of his ranch looked at him oddly.

"That land you and Baker are always arguin' about, boss . . ." he began. "Well, it just ain't there!"

"Not there?" Carr began, but headed, instead for his horse, followed by the foreman. A ten minute ride brought him to the Baker boundary. Then he gasped.

Where the forty-acre disputed tract had been was now a rapidly-filling shallow lake. Water pouring through a cut in the rise was coming in fast from Chazos River.

"The way I figured it, boss," Marple began, "the Chazos must have undermined its banks, run through the gully and then cut through the rise." He pointed to the dry, powdery ground caving away under the rush of the waters. "She was bank-full . . . might have done it any time before."

Dash Car said nothing, only chuckled a little. He was staring across the newly created lake to where Cade Baker stood with his own foreman looking incredulously at the water.

"I reckon there's nothing to fight about, now," he said.

On the road into town, Jim Carr and Bill Baker rode side by side on their way to work on the school foundation.

"She went faster than I'd thought," Jim said. "I figured all we'd have to do was make a twenty-foot cut on the bank and then the rise, and the water would pour through the cuts and widen them slowly. But that water was fast!"

"Yep," Bill said proudly. "She cut most of the channel, the Chazos did. I wonder what our dads are doing now."

"Probably figuring how they'll be able to save five hours a week watering the herds, now that the river water's on the land. I know one thing, though . . . they aren't fighting about it."

Bill chuckled. "Nope, there's nothing to fight about any more!"

THE END J-952

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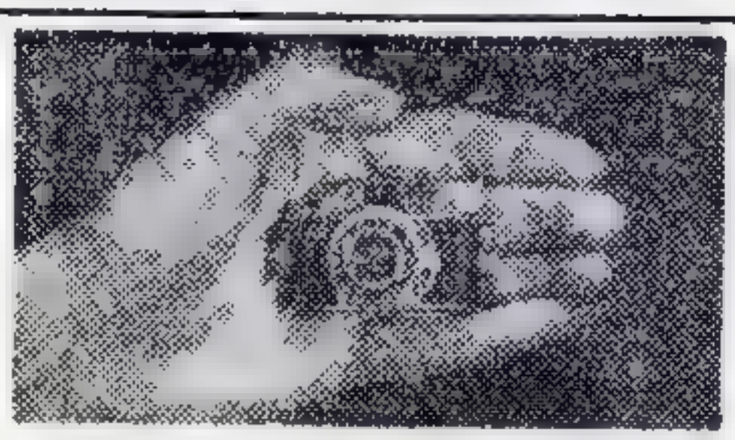

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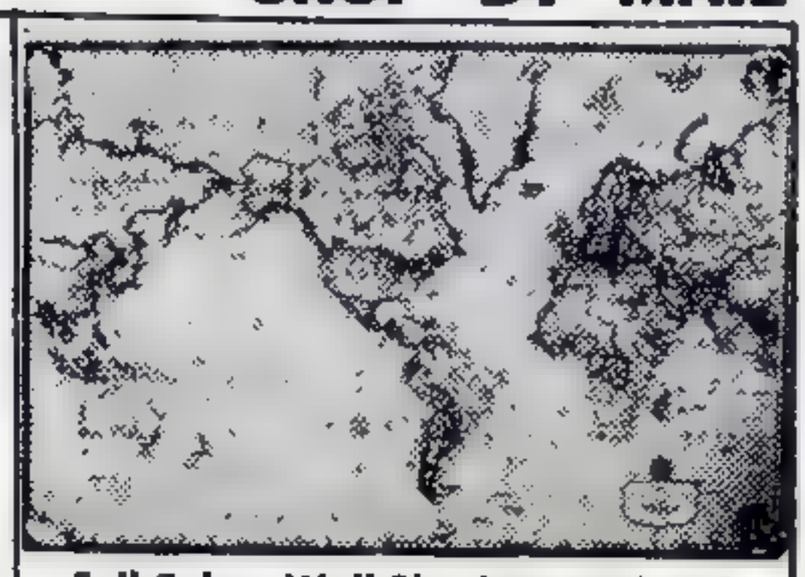

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APACHES ON THE WARPATH!

I THOUGHT THAT COCHISE AND HIS APACHES WANTED PEACE WITH THE WHITE MAN, BUT THE ARROWS THAT APACHE WAR PARTY IS FLINGING AT US, JUSTICE, SURE CHANGES MY THINKIN'!

JGG9

OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO TRY TO REACH THE U.S. ARMY POST AT FORT SAGUARO!

MY "BUNTLINE SPECIAL"* AND JUSTICE'S SPEED KEPT THE HORDE BEHIND US...

THERE'S THE FORT, JUSTICE...AND JUST IN TIME...BECAUSE I'M OUT OF BULLETS!

CLICK

*A COLT .45 NAMED BY THE WRITER NED BUNTLINE (E.Z.C. JUDSON) THE MAN WHO GAVE THESE SPECIAL-BUILT COLTS TO *EARP* AND OTHER FAMOUS LAWMEN IN GRATITUDE FOR THE STORIES THEY SUPPLIED HIM WITH!

GUARD! OPEN THE GATES! LET THE WHITE MAN THRU WHILE WE OPEN FIRE ON THE APACHE WAR PARTY CHASING HIM!

YES, SIR!

HE MADE IT INTO THE FORT AND NOW THE SOLDIERS FIRE ON US! WE GO NOW, AND RETURN WHEN WE HAVE MORE WARRIORS THAN *THEY* HAVE!

COLONEL MADISON, THE COMMANDING OFFICER, CAME RUSHING OUT OF HIS OFFICE...

MARSHAL WYATT EARP! WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?

I WAS ON MY WAY TO TUCSON, COLONEL, BUT A WAR PARTY OF APACHES WHOOPED DOWN ON ME!

SO I MADE A GALLOP FOR YOUR FORT!

BUT THAT *COULDN'T* HAVE BEEN AN *APACHE* WAR PARTY!

WHY NOT, COLONEL?

BECAUSE A FULL MOON AGO I HAVE GIVEN THE COLONEL MADISON MY WORD THAT MY APACHES WILL ATTACK WHITE MAN NO MORE!

MARSHAL EARP...MEET THE LEADER OF THE APACHES...CHIEF COCHISE!

IF THEY WEREN'T APACHES ...WHO WERE THEY?

PERHAPS TRIBES WHO DO NOT APPROVE OF MY TREATY WITH YOUR SOLDIERS!

...OR WHITE MEN WHO REALIZE IF THERE IS PEACE, THERE WILL BE NOBODY TO SELL THEIR GUNS TO!

THE CHIEF AND I WERE TALKING ABOUT THAT WHEN YOU BUSTED INTO THE FORT!

I HAVE HEARD MUCH GOOD ABOUT YOU, AND I WELCOME YOU TO COME SIT AND JOIN OUR POWWOW!

WHILE FORT SAGUARO'S PLAZA BUSTLED WITH COVERED-WAGON TRAINS, SCOUTS AND TRADERS, CHIEF COCHISE AND COLONEL MADISON AND I PALAVERED INSIDE...

WHEN I CAME OUT AN HOUR LATER...

BUT, MARSHAL, LISTEN TO COCHISE'S PLAN FOR PEACE!

I'VE LISTENED ENOUGH TO HIS LIES! HE'S OFFERING YOU A PHONY PEACE! HE AND HIS TRIBE WILL SURPRISE YOU WITH AN ATTACK, AND THEY'LL BURN YOUR FORT TO THE GROUND...THEN IT WILL BE *WAR!*

THE GATE OPENED TO LET OUT SOME WAGONS AND I RODE OUT TOO, KNOWING I WAS SURE TO MEET UP WITH COCHISE AND HIS APACHES AGAIN...

IF I'D FOLLOWED ONE OF THE WAGONS THAT HAD LEFT THE FORT AT THE SAME TIME I DID, I WOULD HAVE LEARNED SOMETHING I *DIDN'T* KNOW...

NAW, COPPERHEAD, NO ONE KNEW I WAS SPYIN' FOR YOU WHEN I HEARD THE ARGUMENT BETWEEN THE MARSHAL AN' COCHISE!

THEN WE'LL ATTACK THE FORT DRESSED LIKE APACHES... AND THE COLONEL WILL THINK EARP WAS RIGHT! AND WHEN COCHISE AND THE APACHES GO ON THE WARPATH...WE'LL SELL 'EM *THOUSANDS OF GUNS!*

FOR THE NEXT FOUR DAYS, THE TOWN WAS UNUSUALLY PEACEFUL...THERE WASN'T A GUNMAN IN SIGHT...

SOMETHING BIG IS STEWING TO GET ALL THE OUTLAWS AWAY FROM THEIR GAMING TABLES!

WHILE I WAS FIGURING OUT THE ANSWER, COPPERHEAD CRANE HAD IT...

I WANT FORT SAGUARO BURNED DOWN, AND THOSE WHO RIDE WITH ME, DRESSED AS APACHES, GET ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS EACH FOR THE CHORE!

YA-HOO! LET'S GO!

THE NEXT DAY, 'OVER THREE HUNDRED OUTLAWS, RIGGED UP AS APACHES, CAME RIDING OVER THE HILL TO THE NORTH OF THE FORT! THEY LET OUT A WAR WHOOP AND CHARGED TOWARD THE FORT...

HERE THEY COME!

THEY'VE GOT THREE TIMES *MORE* MEN THAN WE'VE GOT SOLDIERS!

ON TOP OF THE FORT, ARMY RIFLES BEGAN BLAZING AWAY...BUT IT WASN'T THAT, THAT STOPPED COPPERHEAD AND THE ATTACK!

WE'VE BEEN *TRICKED!* IT'S A *TRAP!*

ON THE HILL, TO THE EAST, HE SAW COLONEL MADISON WITH A PLATOON OF U.S. CAVALRY...

OVER THE TOP OF THE HILL TO THE WEST, CAME MY POSSE AND ME...

AND CROWNING THE CREST OF THE HILL BEHIND HIM WERE THE *REAL* APACHES LED BY *CHIEF COCHISE*...

WE RODE IN FROM THE EAST, WEST AND NORTH! AND FROM THE SOUTH...OUT OF THE FORT, CAME THE GARRISON'S SOLDIERS, TO CLOSE THE TRAP ON THE BIGGEST CATCH OF OUTLAWS IN THE HISTORY OF THE WILD WEST!

LATER; AS COCHISE SHOOK MY HAND...

BUT I THOUGHT YOU *HATED* EACH OTHER!

WE *DID*, FOR *YOUR* BENEFIT ONLY, COPPERHEAD!

I *BELIEVED* COCHISE WHEN HE SAID THE INDIANS WHO CHASED ME WERE POSING AS *HIS* TRIBESMEN, TO STIR UP TROUBLE SO GUN-RUNNERS LIKE YOU COULD SELL MORE GUNS!

SO WYATT PRETENDED *NOT* TO TRUST COCHISE AND SAID THERE'D BE WAR WHEN HIS APACHES BURNED DOWN THE FORT!

AND YOU THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE A GOOD WAY TO START THE WAR BETWEEN THE ARMY AND THE APACHES, WHICH *YOU* WANTED!

WHEN YOU EMPTIED HIS TOWN OF OUTLAWS, THE MARSHAL KNEW YOU WERE READY FOR THE ATTACK!

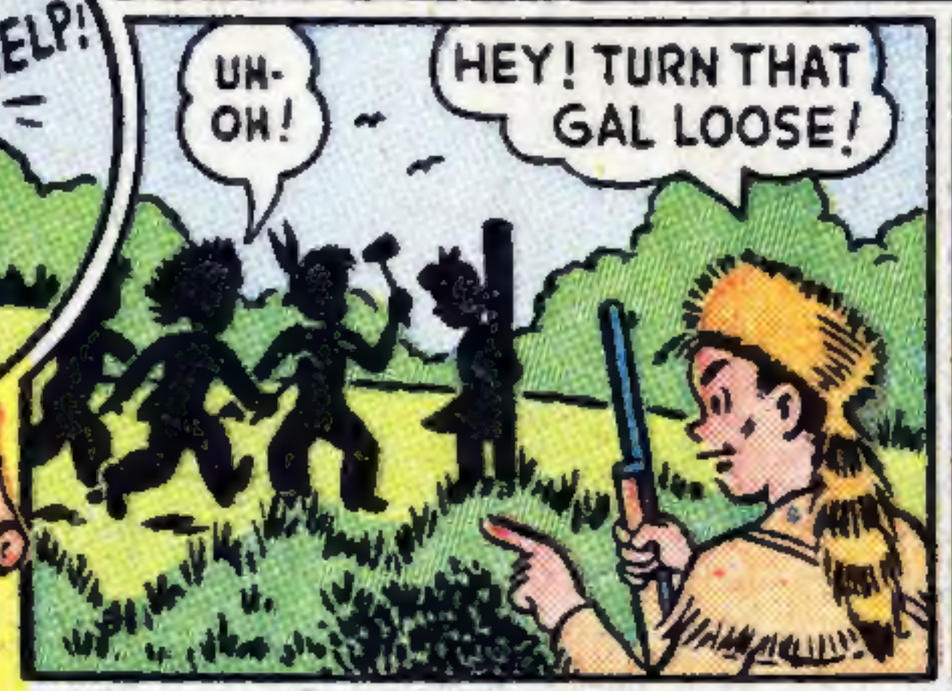
COCHISE THEN SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE ME HIS BLOOD BROTHER...THE GREATEST HONOR AN INDIAN CAN BESTOW UPON A WHITE MAN/ I ACCEPTED THE INVITATION AND WE RODE OFF TOWARD HIS TRIBAL SITE...

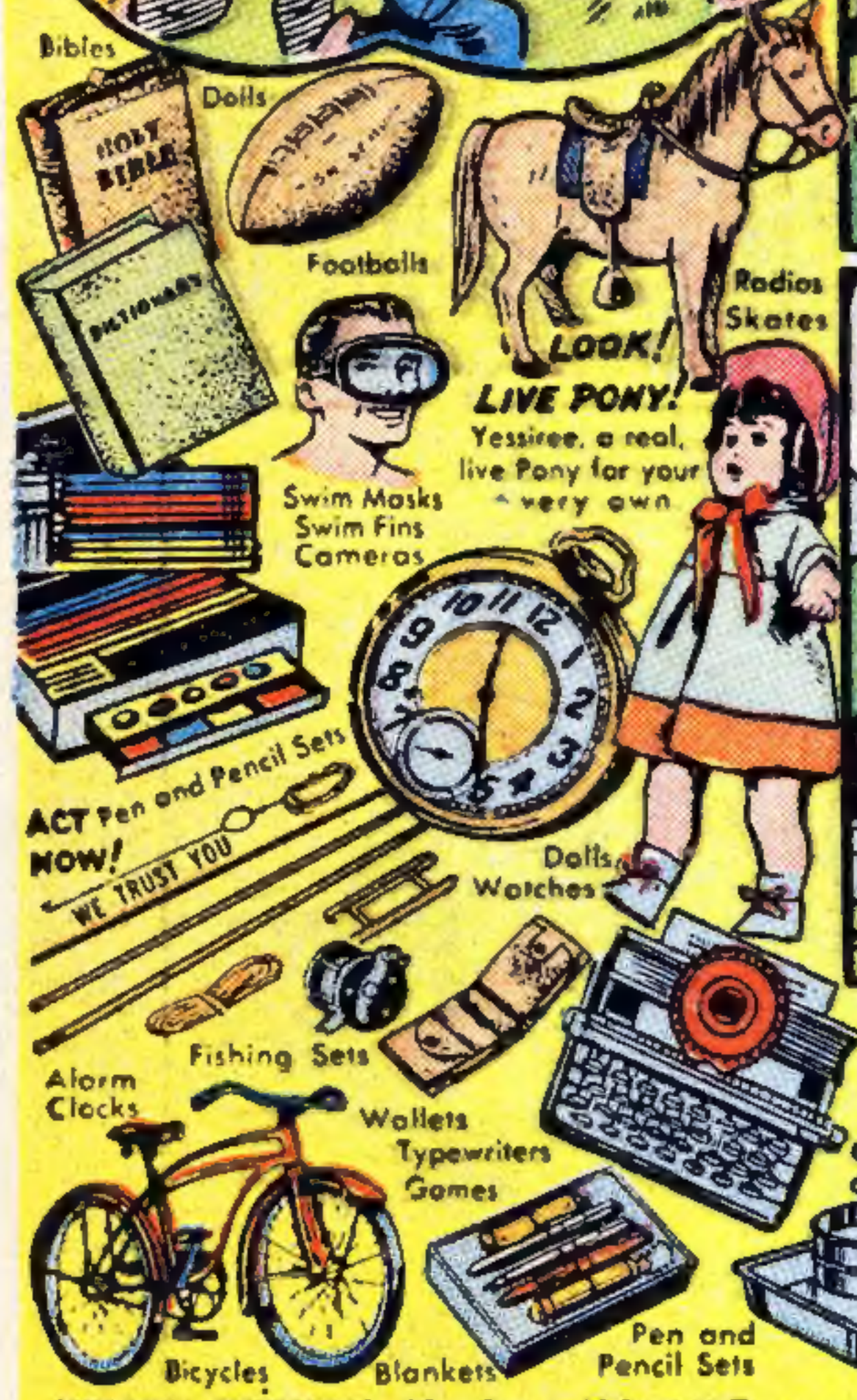
WHEN THE HISTORY OF THE TAMING OF THE WILD WEST IS WRITTEN, THE NAMES OF *WYATT EARP* AND *CHIEF COCHISE* WILL BE AT THE TOP OF THE LIST!

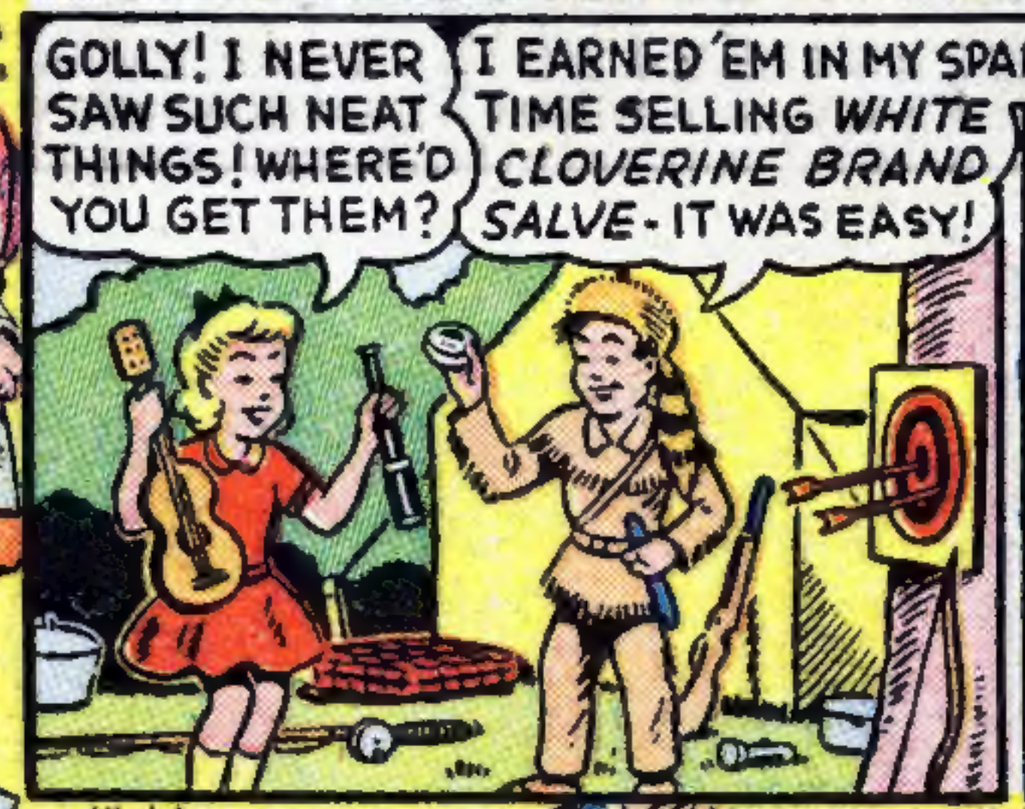
THE END

GIVEN! BOYS! GIRLS! LADIES! MEN!

WE GIVE YOU CASH OR PREMIUMS!



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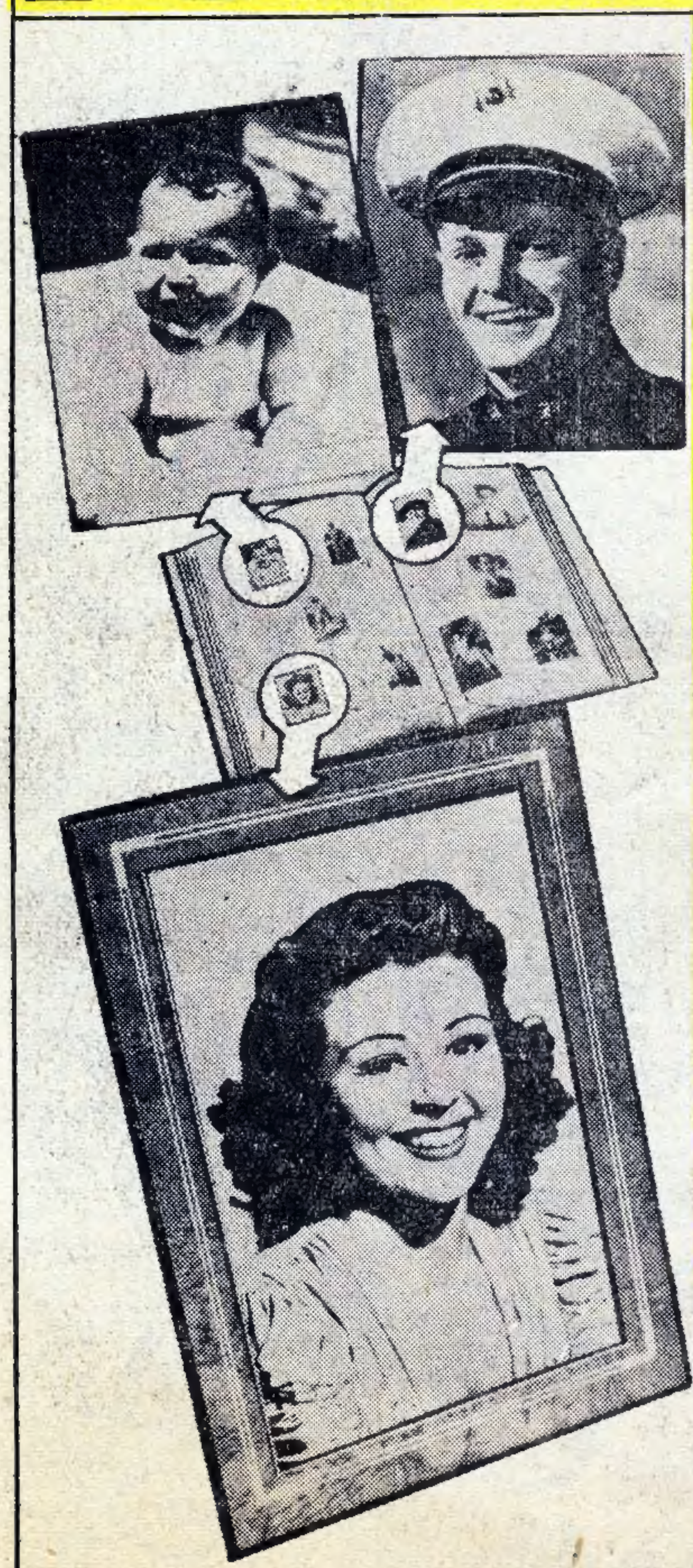

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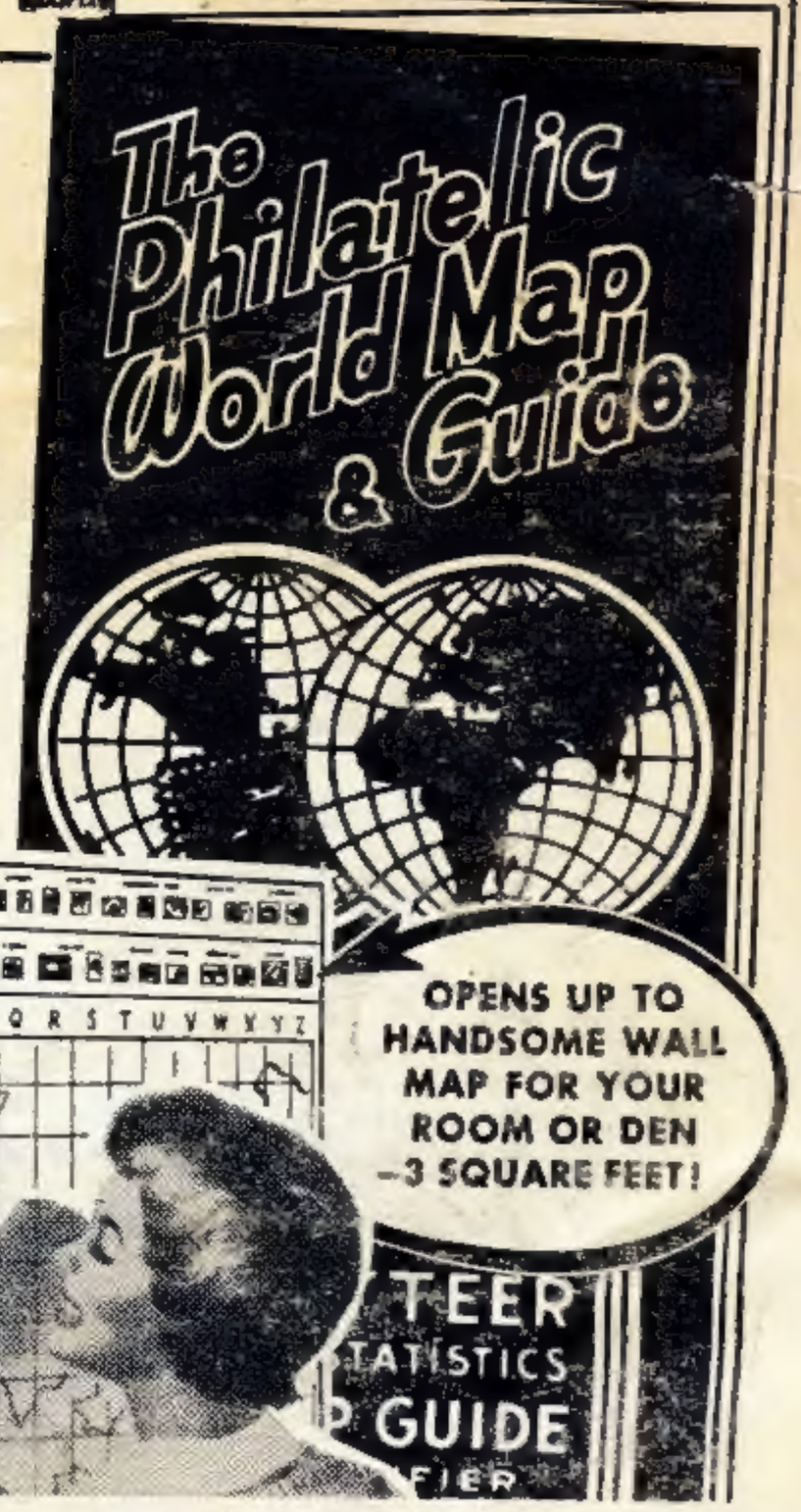

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